areas and 5.470 persons in urban areas. This translates into 31.27% of families or 58.37 million families below the poverty line in 1993-94. The remaining 128.31 million families were above the poverty line Separate estimates for rich and middle class are not available.

(c) The average per capita monthly consumption of people below the poverty line in 1993-94 was Rs. 159.18 in rural areas and Rs. 212.82 in urban areas as compared to Rs. 354.01 and Rs. 575.36 in rural and urban areas respectively for people above the poverty line. Separate estimates for ruch and middle class are not available.

Planning Commission's inability to provide projection

2422. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has expressed its inability to provide the projections for plan and non-plan revenue expenditure of States by March, 2000 to 11th Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) what Are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The Finance Commission is an independent constitutional body, entitled to recommend Central transfers to states based on its own projections of the revenue and expenditure of states.

Cause of Industrial Backwardness in Meghalaya

2423. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of entrepreneurship, infrastructure deficiency,

low rate of capital formation are the major causes of industrial backwardness in the state of Meghalaya; and

(b) If so, the steps taken, so far, by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes Sir, the factors listed are among the major causes for industrial backwardness of Meghalaya.

(b) The development of infrastructure and industries in the States is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government has also taken up a number of schemes to supplement the efforts of the States inculding Meghalaya in this regard. These schemes include Growth Centres Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme and Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres Scheme. Besides, a New Industrial Policy was announced by the Central Government in December, 1997 for speedy development of industries in the North East States including Meghalaya.

Fund Allocated to Hill Autonomous Councils in Assam

2424. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the fund allocated to the North Cachar Hills and Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council from Non-lapsable central pool fund under the various projects during the last three years and including current financial year (1999-2000);

(b) the details of the actual amount released to the council during this period; and

(c) the details of the amount allocated and actually released to the State of Assam under various projects from the Non-lapsable pool during last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC